



The Antlers



Like us on Facebook

August 2026



Message To The Members From Richard Theriault, Exalted Ruler

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you and your families well.

Well, we attended the Grand Lodge Annual convention in July. It was an experience. There were over 7,000 attendees this year. From opening to closing ceremonies, it was eventful. We met friends from Florida and met lots of new friends from around the country. There were lots of hospitality rooms to meet and get to know people from all over. We also got a chance to visit the Elks National Memorial Building and headquarters. If you ever get the chance to visit this Chicago landmark, it is quite remarkable. It was an honor to be there on 100th anniversary of the building and our great country's 250th Birthday celebration.

We were also able to attend several workshops, including Auditing and accounting (basic and advanced), public relations and membership marketing, activities, ENF, Veterans Service and Hoop Shoot.

As a quick reminder, we do still need help on some of our committees. A list is posted on the bulletin board. If you are interested in helping, please contact me or Jeannie. As your Exalted Ruler, I again want to thank you for your commitment to our Lodge, to one another, and the communities we proudly serve. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and events.

Fraternally yours,

Rick



August Birthdays

08/01 Peter Hiltz
08/01 Michael Hoffstetter
08/02 Petra Ginorio
08/06 Gordon Hanebutt
08/06 Joseph Waskelis
08/08 Terry Segraves
08/12 Nicki Grignani
08/13 Maureen DeNoncour
08/14 Dennis Ela
08/16 Marlene Edwards
08/17 Catherine Radaskiewicz
08/18 Richard Altamirano
08/19 Dayna Lutz
08/21 David Carnevale
08/22 Jerry Testa
08/23 Nicole Ihli
08/23 Amy Rousch
08/24 Michael VanHuss
08/27 Marianne Davitt
08/28 Robert Pearson
08/29 Penny Patterson
08/30 Ronald Moffitt

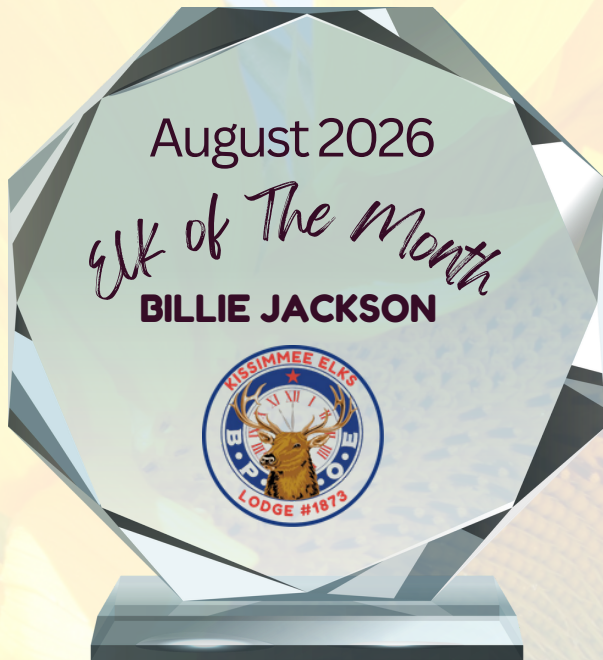


THE ANTLERS

Birthday Drink Coupon

This coupon entitles you to 1 free
drink of your choice any dinner night
of your birthday month
One Coupon Per Member
Good for August '25

HELLO AUGUST



Billie took over the handling of the Lodge Antler publication when Lee had to step down. She jumped right in, got help when needed and has been doing an excellent job since. She also volunteers at the lodge when and where it is needed with the Activities Committee.

Thank you, Billie, for all that you do.

A warm welcome to our new Elks



Shawn Decker and John Timmerman



Elk Member Recognition for Charitable Service

When a fellow Elk member sees a community need and takes action towards a solution, we are grateful and proud. Our lodge member, **Luis Eder**, volunteers at the Altar Community Church kitchen in St. Cloud. They feed 200 guests every Monday, Wednesday and Friday with food from Second Harvest and surrounding businesses. A kitchen refrigerated unit had to be replaced and Lou brought the problem to our lodge's grant committee. The committee approved \$2,000 which remained from the 2025 Florida Elks State Grant program. Serving our community is a vital mission and Lou put out the effort to make it happen.

The National Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks offers five grants that are available to all lodges. In past years, under the leadership of **Lorraine Barker**, our lodge has donated grant funds and fostered lodge involvement to meet the needs of many local organizations. Examples of past grants are; The McCormick Institute of St. Cloud, which uses horses to help veterans who experience post-traumatic stress disorder. The Osceola County Animal Shelter received dog beds, food, toys, treats and outdoor carpet for dog play areas. The Osceola County on Aging received several donations. Meals were delivered to many grateful recipients along with donations of pet food for their pets. The Cancer Resource Room at HCA, Florida, Osceola Hospital in Kissimmee provides wigs and necessities to cancer patients. We heard music and children laughing when our lodge hosted the annual Christmas party for the Osceola foster children and their families. Finally, but not a complete list, our grants supported charity projects associated with local churches.

continued on next page...



THE ANTLERS

Elk Member Recognition for Charitable Service

cont...

As of April 1, we again have the opportunity to make a difference. The **2026 - 2027 grants are available** to meet the needs of our community, veterans, children and homeless. We are asking all of you, as members, to identify an opportunity and lead the charge, just like Lou did. Please contact me to learn more about the five grants and their requirements. If you have a personal project, know of a specific need in our community, want aid in an ongoing project or are part of another organization that we can combine our efforts, please contact me. Together, we have the ability to do good things and really make a difference.

Kindly,

Marianne Tithof

303-704-3415



THE ANTLERS



August 2026



**Lodge Closed on Sundays, Thursdays and Saturdays
Except when noted**

Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3  6pm	4 Activities Committee Mtg 6pm	5 6PM 	6	7  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	8
9	10  6pm	11 BOD Mtg. 6pm Lodge Mtg. 7pm \$1 Hot Dogs after mtg.	12 6PM 	13	14  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	15
16	17  6pm	18 BINGO WITH VETS 2-3PM 	19 6PM 	20	21  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	22
23	24  6pm	25	26 6PM 	27	28  FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER <i>Paint Night</i> See Flyer Pg 4	29
30	31  6pm			Lodge Hours Open Hours Bar - 4pm Kitchen Monday/Tuesdays 5:00pm - 6:30pm Wednesday 5pm-7pm Friday 5pm-8pm Bingo - 6pm *Closed during Lodge Meetings		

Paint Night

Friday, August 28, 2026

7:00 - 9:00 PM

\$28.50 Plus Tax

Let your inner artist come out. You will be guided through a complete painting by a professional artist.

Sign up and pay to reserve your spot today.

All materials will be provided.



Payment Due at Signup. No Refunds.

Open to Elks and Their Guests



Dear Members,

We want to make everyone aware of an email scam that has been circulating throughout the Elks nationwide.

Scammers have been sending fraudulent emails while pretending to be Lodge officers—most commonly your Exalted Ruler. These emails typically ask you to reply by email or claim they need your immediate assistance.



Please use caution if you receive an unexpected email like this.

Here are a few tips to help protect yourself:

- Do not reply to suspicious emails.
- Do not click on any links or open attachments from emails you were not expecting.
- Never purchase gift cards, send money, or provide personal information in response to these messages.
- If you are unsure whether an email is legitimate, contact the Lodge officer directly using a phone number or email address you already know is correct.

Our Lodge officers will never ask members to purchase gift cards, send money, or handle financial transactions by email.

If you receive one of these scam emails, simply delete it. If you have any questions about whether a message is legitimate, please don't hesitate to contact one of our Lodge officers.

Thank you for helping keep our members informed and protected.

Fraternally,

Nick Miller

State Secretary



To our amazing **ELK MEMBERS**

*Thank you for being the heart
of our lodge!*



♥ **YOUR IDEAS MATTER!**

We love hearing your suggestions and ideas to help our lodge grow and thrive.



♥ **SPEAK UP, WE'RE LISTENING!**

If something's on your mind, please reach out to a committee member or officer.



♥ **TOGETHER, WE MAKE IT GREAT!**

Your time, talents and kindness help create a welcoming place for all to enjoy.



♥ **KINDNESS GOES A LONG WAY!**

A friendly word, a helping hand, and a positive attitude make a big difference.

Our lodge is ran by **VOLUNTEERS!**
WE ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS!

♥ *Please do your part too.* ♥

♥ Let's keep our lodge strong, active and fun for everyone!

Thank you for making our lodge so special! ♥

How is the Elks National Foundation Helping Florida?

When you give to the Elks National Foundation, you're doing more than funding the [Elks National Drug Awareness](#) and "Hoop Shoot" programs. You're doing more than supporting the [Community Investments Program](#) and providing [Emergency Educational Grants](#) to the children of deceased or totally disabled Elks. You're doing more than meeting the needs of [today's veterans](#) and maintaining the [Elks National Memorial](#).

You're doing all that, *and* you're supporting Elkdom in *your* state.

During the 2025-26 Lodge year, the Elks of Florida donated \$471,823.98 to the Elks National Foundation. This year, the Foundation will give back the following:



These grants support [your state's major charitable project](#), as well as other philanthropic projects. Portions of these grants will also support your state's Drug Awareness Program, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot and educational programs.

State Charities Grant: **\$329,900.00**
Special Projects Grant: **\$263,860.00**
Bonus Grant: **\$67,610.00**



We will award a total of 33 Most Valuable Student scholarships to high school seniors from your state. ([Click here](#) to check out your recipients.) In addition, we will award up to 10 Legacy scholarships to children, grandchildren and stepchildren of Elks. ([Click here](#) to check out your recipients.)

Most Valuable Student: **\$132,000.00**
Legacy Award: **\$60,000.00**



We also provide the Elks National Veterans Service Commission with funding to support its volunteers working in veterans hospitals and medical centers.

Funding for VAVS Volunteers:
\$29,100.00

That's a ratio of **1.870** for every dollar the Foundation received from your state last year. And that doesn't even include the money Lodges in your state will get back through our [Community Investments Program](#).

Grand Total: \$882,470.00

For the 2025-26 fiscal year, for example, we awarded a total of **\$1,165,000.00** to 87 Florida Lodges.

For more information about the Elks National Foundation, contact your local chairman or write us at Elks National Foundation, 2750 N. Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614, enf@elks.org.



HELLO

AUGUST

CHARITABLE SERVICE

The Order prioritizes charity in its broadest sense, allowing local lodges to choose their benevolent activities while also responding swiftly to national disasters. Their charitable efforts include food, shelter, medical aid, education, and support for children, Veterans, and the underprivileged. State Elks Associations lead initiatives such as scholarships, medical clinics, and rehabilitation programs.

What can I do today to keep our local mission going?



Charitable Donation Opportunity

Do you have old eyeglasses stored away that you know you will never use?

Bring them to the lodge. We will donate them to the Rotary Club who partners with Lions Club for eyewear donations.



THE ANTLERS

The 11 O'clock Toast to Our Absent Members

"You have heard the tolling of 11 strokes. This is to impress upon you that with us the hour of 11 has a tender significance. Wherever an Elk may roam, whatever their lot in life may be, when this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs. It is the golden hour of recollection, the homecoming of those who wander, the mystic roll call of those who will come no more. Living or dead, an Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass them by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message.

ANTLER'S BOOSTER CLUB

JANUARY 31, 2027

JIM & JEANNIE PLATT (IMO) MERLE & TOBY MOUNTZ

MARCH 31, 2027

FRED & FRAN HAMMER (IMO) AMANDA ANDERSON

APRIL 1, 2027

PAT DEVILLERS (IMO) GEORGE DEVILLERS

MAY 31, 2027

LEE HERSHNER (IMO) ELLA FLYNN

JUNE 1, 2027

RHONDA SCHOOLEY (IMO) EDWARD NICHOLSON

FEBRUARY 28, 2028

DOT JOHNSTON (IMO) LES JOHNSTON

AUGUST 1, 2028

JANE COUTURE (IMO) NICOLE COUTURE

AUGUST 31, 2028

JOHN & CAROL HAMILTON (IMO) PAUL & LOUIS DANIELS

PLEASE CONSIDER USING THIS ANTLER BOOSTER PAGE TO ASSIST OUR LODGE WITH A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION OR TO EULOGIZE OR MEMORIALIZE SOMEONE NEAR AND DEAR TO YOU. FOR \$20 PER YEAR, YOUR NAME CAN APPEAR HERE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT EXTRA CONTRIBUTION.

PLEASE CONTACT THE LODGE SECRETARY TO MAKE A \$20 ANTLERS BOOSTER DONATION FOR YOURSELF AND/OR ALSO MAKE A DONATION IN MEMORY OF (IMO) A LOVED ONE OR FRIEND.

***TAX DISCLAIMER: KISSIMMEE ELKS LODGE #1873 IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION 501(C)8.**



THE ANTLERS



KISSIMMEE ELKS LODGE #1873

1655 KINGS HIGHWAY

KISSIMMEE, FL 34744

TELEPHONE: (407) 847-2444

EMAIL: BPOE1873@GMAIL.COM

[FACEBOOK.COM/KISSIMMEEELKSLODGE1873](https://www.facebook.com/KISSIMMEEELKSLODGE1873)

WWW.KISSIMMEEELKSLODGE.COM



2026-2027 LODGE OFFICERS

EXALTED RULER	RICK THERIAULT
LEADING KNIGHT	ROBERT HUSBAND
LOYAL KNIGHT	JOE WASKELIS
LECTURING KNIGHT	STEVE HEBIOR
LODGE SECRETARY	ETTA JEAN PLATT, PER
LODGE TREASURER	DAWN HEID
ESQUIRE	STEVE CAMPBELL
TILER	DENNIS MILLER
CHAPLAIN	ROBERT HATCHELL
INNER GUARD	BETTY LAMBERT

2026-2027 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1-YEAR TRUSTEE MARK WASKELIS
2-YEAR TRUSTEE FRANK HUSBAND
3-YEAR TRUSTEE BLAKE FREEMAN
4-YEAR TRUSTEE KEN EDWARDS
5-YEAR TRUSTEE CHUCK LASSABE

CONTACT NUMBERS

RICK THERIAULT	407-414-4482
JIM PLATT	717-580-5039
JEANNIE PLATT	717-580-1016
STEVE HEBIOR	407-927-9301
JOE WASKELIS	727-560-5482
VIVIAN THERIAULT	407-595-6730
BOB BARRY	407-414-1718

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY HOURS
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 10AM-2 PM

PAST EXALTED RULER ASSOCIATION (PER)

PRESIDENT	ROBERT BARRY PDDGR
VICE PRESIDENT	ETTA JEAN PLATT, PDDGR
SECRETARY/TREASURER	JAMES PLATT, PER

2026-2027 TEAMS/LEADS

KITCHEN	STEVE HEBIOR
RENTALS	VIVIAN THERIAULT
COMMUNICATIONS	BILLIE JACKSON
ACTIVITIES	TERRY HEBIOR

LODGE ADVISOR	ETTA JEAN PLATT, PDDGR
LODGE ATTORNEY	TBD

LODGE MEETINGS

2ND AND 4TH TUESDAY
(EXCEPT JULY, AUGUST & DECEMBER)
OF EACH MONTH @ 7:00PM
MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ARTICLES FOR
PUBLICATION BY EMAIL TO
BILLIE.ELKSLODGE@GMAIL.COM
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CONTACT
INFORMATION



THE ANTLERS